

We are living in a world today where it seems as if violent crimes against humanity is at an all-time high.

- We are robbing each
- We are unsafe in our home
- It’s not even safe to walk down the street anymore for the fear of a young teenage boys punching you in your face playing old to violent game called knockout.

Lord where you are in a times like this.....

- We are ending the lives of individuals who are doing nothing more than walking down the streets coming home from the store after buying a bag of Skittles and a can of iced tea.
- Individuals are losing their lives because the music in which they were playing in their automobiles is considered too loud.
- Tell me how is it that a child who is merely seeking help is shot multiple times just because he was African American.

And the sad thing about some of these senseless acts of violence is that we are using the law to justify our evil cruel and inhumane ways. We are standing behind a law that need to be given careful consideration if we are going to keep it on the books, this law is called “The Stand Your Ground law”.

The Stand Your Ground Law: states that a person may justifiably use force in self-defense without an obligation to retreat first.

Now let me be the first to admit that I agree that all humans..... Regardless of their race and or economic status all humans have the right to defend themselves against harm.

The Issue is with this law is that we are using it to justify our senseless actions.

- How are you standing your ground when you take the life of a child and all he is doing is walking home in a hoodie eating a bag of skittles and sipping on a can of Ice Tea?
- How are you standing your ground when you murder a child because his choice of music is being played too loud?

Sadly not only did those two events happen, there are pockets of America that are working hard to not only keep these laws on the books but make them tougher so they can justify more senseless murders and acts of violence.

But.....Isn't it strange of some individuals will fight for what they believe in even though it is wrong..... but sadly to admit that I am noticing more individuals that represent the Church of the living God sit quietly and do nothing when it come to the issue of “Standing Your Ground”

For yes, The Lord Jesus left you instructions as a children of God to “STAND YOUR GROUND” Where is this law written well I am Glad that you asked.

- *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Although we know that God calls us to stand firm. We often times allow others to have influence upon us to cause us to relax our morals and values. Thus causing us not to stand our ground.

Thus in our text today we see a King by the name of Xerxes who attempted to cause his wife Vashti to relax her moral convictions and be used as an object rather than the Queen in which she had become. But the Queen did something that is unprecedented during her day. She stood her ground.

Who is this King Xerxes: A very powerful King that reigned a large vast of land from India to Ethiopia. He also reigned for 127 years. He was a POWERFUL man. **(Esther 1:1)**

The text goes on to declare that in the third year of his reign he had a party. *The previous years was spend building his kingdom, and his mighty armies.* He invited all of the big wigs. It was a party of the who's who of Persia and Media. All of the nobles and Princes were there. His ultimate task for this gathering was to prepare for war against Greece **(Esther 1:3)**

Now as the king entertained his guests the bible states that he began to show off his vast riches in his kingdom. For six months he put on exhibit the huge wealth of his empire and its stunningly beautiful royal splendors. **(Esther 1:4)**

At the conclusion of the exhibit, the king threw a weeklong party for everyone, the important and unimportant alike. The party was in the garden courtyard of the king's summer house. The courtyard was elaborately decorated.....

- White and blue cotton curtains tied with linen and purple cords to silver rings on marble columns.
- Silver and gold couches were arranged on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl, and colored stones.

- Drinks were served in gold chalices, each chalice one-of-a-kind.

The royal wine flowed freely—a generous king! The guests could drink as much as they liked—king’s orders!—with waiters at their elbows to refill the drinks. **(Esther 1:5-8)**

It was evident that King Xerxes was in charge. Thus giving him great influence over those that was at the party as well as those that is in his kingdom.

Queen Vashti in separate quarters had a feast for the woman. **(Esther 1:9)**

Anxious to please his guests, Xerxes asked the queen to come to the men’s banquet. He ordered his chamberlains to go get his Queen to come before the men unveiled but Vashti refused.

Who is this woman to refuse the direct command of such a powerful man? This woman is the QUEEN. (The name “Vashti” means “beautiful woman.”)

- This woman had some standards to live up to.
- She was the Kings Queen.
- She had to be always on point.

She could not do anything that was going to cause herself or the King and shame. There were times in which the Queen had to **“Stand her Ground”**

- Surly there was some that were some that tried to convince Vashti to just do it. And she could keep her position in the kingdom.
 - Don’t abandon your moral conviction for social gain.

God is calling Christians to stop falling for any and everything. Why? Well because we are tearing down our own image daily by bowing down to any and everything. There is a saying that says, if you don’t stand for something you will fall for anything.

Vashti knew the king and his guests were under the influence of wine and that the banquet hall was no place for a woman, especially a queen.

Vashti also knew that it was not a good thing for her to take herself in front of the drunk men unveiled.

- Some theologians suggest that the king was asking his queen to come before all of the drunk men naked.
- Some theologians suggest that the king wanted her to take off her vale that covered her face.

Either way the Queen would have been dishonoring herself and the King by doing such a thing. So the Queen does something unheard of she said no to the King. **She stood her ground.**

There is an important lesson that we can learn from Queen Vashti today. We can learn that regardless of what man tries to get us to do. We are obligated to protect the King.....Our king is not robed with a Purple robe, but our kings sits high and looks low..... *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. (Psalms 24:8)* And we are obligated to protect the King.

We are obligated to **“Stand Our Ground”** as believers of Christ.

I know that one may suggest that there is not enough written about this Queen Vashti to convince you to Stand your Ground”

- Her name was only mentioned 6 times
- She was only mentioned in 1 chapter
- She was not even important enough for the book to be named after her
- Some may say that the Queen Vashti was not even a Jew.....

But she still sets an example about personal integrity

Well Reedy River may I suggest that there is someone that is greater than Queen Vashti that should be convincing enough to get you to stand your ground when it comes to you being a child of God.

- There is one who exceeds her obedience.
- One who is an example of integrity

For the bible has another on record his name is Jesus. And Jesus showed us the ultimate example of how to **“Stand Your Ground”**

Because all through the life of Jesus he had to constantly **“Stand his Ground”** The bible says that he was in all points tempted. Just like you and I are. Yet he is without sin.

- He refused to fall for being disobedience
- He refused to fall down to disrespect.

The devil took him to the wilderness to be tempted. He said to Jesus command these stones to be made bread. The Lord said to the Devil I got to **“STAND MY GROUND”** “the Lord said that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that preceded out of the mouth of God.

Then the devil took him to the top of the temple, the devil told him to jump because the Angels will catch you. In other words the devil was saying to Jesus that is ok not to stand your ground but Jesus said devil it is written you shall not tempt the Lord thy God. Jesus was saying, I got to **“Stand my Ground”**

Then the devil showed him the kingdoms of the world. And told him that he would only bow down. I will give you everything that you see. All you have to do is not stand your ground. Then Jesus said to the Devil get the behind me Satan. Because it is written that you should only worship the Lord thy God.

Jesus was committed to ‘Stand his ground.’”

On the cross when they mocked him. Saying come down and save yourself. **He stood his ground**

Jesus said, “I can’t come down. I got to **stand my Ground**” Because he stood his ground you and I have access into the presence of God.

- I don’t know who I am talking to this morning but “Stand your Ground”
- Folk going to talk about you but “Stand your Ground”

May not speak to you, even when they do it may be ungodly words, Hold your head up high, even if you have to walk by yourself

- I don’t know how you feel about it but made up my mind that “I am going to stand my Ground”

I made up my mind I will go if I have to go by myself.....

- I will preach, if I have to Preach to myself
- I will sing, even if I have to sing to myself
- I will serve is I have to Serve all by myself

Can you stand on your feet, tell your neighbor to **“Stand Your Ground”**.

You may have to go through something but **“Stand Your Ground**.

Can you encourage them and tell them whatever you do **stand your ground**. Whatever you do tell God I am going with you all the way. Whatever you do tell the Lord I will let nothing separate me from the Love of God.

The story of the Cross.

